

Beginner Silversmith Class

In this class you will have two projects. First you will make a simple chain from 14 gauge silver wire. The chain is composed of simple links made by wrapping the silver wire around wooden tongue depressors. In this project you solder the links to form a chain. The number of links you make will determine the length of the chain. You can choose to form a hook (recommend that you use 14 gauge round wire). Or you can create a chain sufficiently large enough to go over the head. Second you will make a ring with an oval stone.

This document consists of several tables. Table 1 lists the tools you will need for this project; Table 2 lists the materials needed; Table 3 provides the steps in the process; Table 4 provides the steps in the ring making process.

Table 1: Tool List (Beginner and Advanced)			
	Item	Availability (Cost)	Comments
1.1	Pick (used for manipulating silver when soldering, to pick up and move solder or flux)	A. Can be purchased for \$1-10 B. Can be made out of a steel coat hanger (see Figure 1)	Need to keep this tool clean and sharp at all times
1.2	Torch (used for soldering and to anneal metal)	A. School has Prest-O-Lite acetylene torch with a B tank for gas supply	Talk to instructor if you are going to buy one
1.3	Two pair of tweezers (sharp pointed pair and a self locking pair)	A. Harbor Freight B. Thunderbird Supply	Do not buy serrated type
1.4	Pliers (you will need flat nose, round nose, chain nose, and flush cut pliers) non serrated	Buy these in a set of four Thunderbird Supply	
1.5	Frame saw (4 inch depth)	Supplied by school	
1.6	Saw blades (4/0 and 5/0 size)	Buy these by the dozen Thunderbird Supply	You will use many different sizes as your work expands
1.7	Bench Pin, Bench or work space	Supplied by school	
1.8	Ring Mandrel, Oval bezel mandrel and soft mallet	Supplied by school	
1.9	Needle files (used to remove burrs or to smooth surfaces)	All steel, not diamond, Harbor Freight	Very fine
1.10	Soldering board to solder on	Supplied by school	Can use a variety of items (confirm that these will tolerate the heat)
1.11	Curved burnisher	Thunderbird Supply	Keep polished at all times
1.12	Steel wool (000 size) (used to prefinish metal)	Supplied by school	
1.13	Two 3 inch deep dishes (to hold liquids)	Supplied by school	1 for pickle 1 for rinse water
1.14	Small bench vice (used to hold work stable)	Supplied by school	
1.15	Magnifying goggles U.V. glasses	Thunderbird Supply or Harbour Freight	Need to see small items Protect your eyes
1.16	Twelve inch steel ruler	Harbor freight	
1.17	Paper, pencil, scissors	Use what you have from home	